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BOOK REVIEW.

American Political History to the Death of Lincoln. Popularly told by VIOLA A. CONKLIN. 800. Pp. xv+435. Price \$1.50. Henry Holt & Co., 1902.

THIS work is of necessity general and very much condensed—the first two chapters on “The Old Dominion” and “The New England Theocracy,” seeming almost “packed,” but with well selected material. The quotations with which the book abounds, from Jefferson on the Town Meeting to the final tribute to Lincoln, are very pertinent.

The immediate pre-Revolutionary period is well treated. The introduction of Barré’s speech and Burke’s wise words is happy, as well as the excellent references to Pitt, and the Colonial donation responses, though more emphasis might be laid on the desire, in common with the colonists, of the new Whigs for more liberty and increased representation.

One marked excellence is in limiting the details of the War of Independence to a few pages, containing forcible examples of loyalty and side lights on contemporary European conditions, which, in spite of their important bearing, are often omitted from text-books, and in consequence remain wholly unknown to the average student.

The Critical Period, presented in the chapters on “The Confederation” and “The Constitution,” is well treated, and includes good accounts of the Ordinance of 1787, commercial negotiations with foreign countries, and our own domestic development of trade.

The grouping of the earlier part of the book is better than the later division of the book into Presidencies.

A perusal of what the author has to say on currency, the tariff and commercial expansion will be of special and timely interest. Though a political history, social and industrial influences and events which were at work shaping our institutions, are not neglected.

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